BENGALURU, MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 20 | Humidity 80% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 54,769 | Nifty 16,584 | Gold 50,984 | Silver 61,660 | Dollar 77.61 | Euro 83.19 | GBP 96.93

Ticket counter that never opens on time, perpetually shut restrooms and catering stall trouble passengers at Hoodi halt railway station

LOOS TRACK

No drinking water facility provided by Railways

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Thousands of railway passengers including IT professionals were happy when MP from Bengaluru Central PC Mohan developed Hoodi halt railway station in 2016. Their joy knew no bounds when he inaugurated the much-needed foot over bridge in 2019 as it facilitates passengers to reach the railway station without any hassles.

However, the railway authorities have now become negligent to keep the railway station clean and enable passengers to use the available facilities at the station.

Though not many people visit this railway station due to work from home and other reasons, railway authorities have completely forgotten to keep the station free from garbage and other nuisance.

> **I am waiting here to buy a ticket for Bangarpet ... Ticket collector on the train wouldn't believe me if I said the counter was closed.**
>
> — Vicky, passenger

For example, there are three toilets at the railway station but no one can use them as these are locked due to reasons best known to the railway authorities. In the absence of toilets, railway passengers are compelled to use the vacant space adjacent to the station as an open toilet.

"The toilets were constructed more than five years ago but I never saw these toilets kept open to the public. What is the use of constructing toilets when they are not open for public use? I want the railway authorities to open these toilets immediately," said Ramamurthy S, a railway passenger.

Though it is a halt station, the railway authorities have to ensure drinking water and toilet facilities. The railway passengers either bring drinking water from home or wait till they travel by train to the next station to buy drinking water. Railways installed a catering stall on the platform but it is always kept locked too.

"I have never seen the catering stall open. It will be good

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Ain't no Sunshine

Solar roof in 33 govt buildings in Bengaluru and 41 public buildings in state, 'not enough'

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The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), the nodal agency to implement the solar rooftop programme, has so far installed Solar Roof Top Photovoltaic (SRTPV) plants on 33 government buildings in Bengaluru.

In the state, however, just 41 public buildings are currently harvesting solar energy. As per data provided by BESCOM, while the total capacity of all the commissioned rooftop solar plants on government buildings across the state is 11 MW, the distribution company has surveyed only 101 more buildings so far to install the panels. All put together, the total capacity planned in public buildings so far is 15 MW.

Experts said this is a very small number looking at the target set for SRTPV in Karnataka.

"We are significantly lagging due to various reasons such as lack of awareness, high upfront cost for rooftop solar panels, dearth of financing options and policy uncertainties. Installing rooftop solar in government buildings will help further the cause. However, 11 MW is a small figure looking at the number of government buildings and the time that has elapsed since BESCOM was made the nodal agency for SRTPV," said Jaymin Gajjar, senior associate at Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Arts & Crafts

The Indian Artisan Bazaar has arrived at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bengaluru. The crafts of India are diverse, rich in history, culture, and religion. Visit and experience a rare contemporary form of Arts & Crafts, Clothing, Jewelry, Home Decor, Furniture, Handicraft's products direct from the makers from across India.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; When: Till June 12; 11 am – 7 pm

02 Nothing goes to waste

In an effort to create awareness around e-waste, Orion Mall at Brigade Gateway will be setting up an e-waste art gallery by renowned artist and designer, Vishwanath Mallabadi Davangere, whose main focus is on art forms through e-waste. The installations are made up of e-waste such as keyboard keys, CPUs, Hard Drives, PCB boards, LED Boards, cables etc.
Where: Orion Mall @Brigade Gateway
When: Till June 14; Time: 10 am to 10 pm
Entry: Free

03 Bookmark this

What are you reading these days? Is there an author or a poet that you have been amazed by recently? Or a book that changed your life. Do you want to share your views on it? If so, head to a meet of the like-minded folk who share the magic of wordsmiths who not only influenced us but shaped our lives in some way. It will be a one hour gathering- at Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: Every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 4–5 pm

Get well: Covid putting tad more in hospital of late

21 persons in the city being treated for covid in hospitals; 4 of them in ICU

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Parents of children watch as a health worker inoculates a school student with a dose of Corbevax in the city

Amidst the fear of the next wave of covid, the number of hospitalisations due to the infection in the city has increased by a bit. From almost zero hospitalisations a few weeks back, it has now jumped to 21 including four patients being treated at ICU, according to BBMP war room data.

However, health department officials said that there was no cause to worry as most of the covid patients were exhibiting mild symptoms and were being isolated at home. Besides Test Positivity rate (TPR) which is an indication of the covid spread, hospitalisation provides crucial data on the severity of the disease. A health expert said, "Though most of the covid cases have been asymptomatic since the first wave, hospitalisations were a big worry in the first two waves. In the first wave driven by alpha variants, many were seen waiting to get a hospital bed as the hospital infrastructure wasn't enough to match the covid patient demand. In fact, there were not many ambulances as so many lost their lives waiting for an ambulance.

However, the severity increased in the second wave driven by the delta variant when most of the patients admitted for covid treatment required oxygen and many hospitals literally lacked the oxygen supply. Though in many places patients died for want of oxygen, in Bengaluru, hospitals had asked patients' families to arrange for oxygen, remdesivir and other drugs."

According to him, the third wave mostly driven by Omicron saw mild symptoms. "Though the infection rate was higher as Bengaluru alone touched 30,000 cases, hospitalisation was quite low. So, we have been advocating that the severity of covid waves be gauged by hospitalisation and not the infection numbers."

In the last few days, covid score in Bengaluru is hovering around 200 while in neighbouring Maharashtra and Kerala, it has breached the 1,000-mark. "As of now, the hospitalisation is quite low in Bengaluru and not many hospitals are seeing the covid rush as most of the patients are either treated in OPD or via teleconsultation. Since the beginning, covid has been quite unpredictable. When India saw a huge first wave, everyone thought that there won't be a second wave as the other parts of the world had already seen a second one. However, the second one was a fatal one with thousands losing their lives and it was believed that many had acquired immunity. Then came the third wave. One of the reasons for the mild third wave could be hybrid immunity where people had contracted covid and also got vaccination," the expert said.

He said it is vital to take the third dose without fail when one is up for it. "Vaccination is key to fighting covid. Even Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar who recently got infected with covid had said that vaccination has helped him as the disease has been moderate," he said.

> **"We have been advocating that severity of covid waves be gauged by hospitalisation numbers** – A health expert

Experts have been saying that the next three weeks can be crucial to know more about spread of the infection. As of now, there is no consensus whether covid cases are driven by the new variant or not as the genome sequencing has not identified any new variant of concern in Karnataka so far. Covid experts have also suggested that the State Government increase testing.

Wildlife is 14-yr-old photographer's muse

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Amoghavarsha Patlapati at the exhibition

When Amoghavarsha Patlapati hosted his first wildlife photo exhibition titled 'Tales of Moghi' at Karnataka Chitra Kala Parishat, the 14-year-old has come one step closer to realising his dream. The exhibition that began on June 1 and came to a close on June 5 featured more than 100 photographs clicked by Patlapati.

Patlapati told Bangalore Mirror he was seven, when he first took his camera to capture wild beasts. "When I was young, my parents used to take me to various forests. There, I would observe all the wild animals. After that my mother started wildlife photography. Seeing her photographs, I was inspired and that's how I started my journey as a wildlife photographer," he said.

The one thing that wildlife photography taught him is patience, he says. "I understood that in order to be successful in this field, it is extremely important to learn the art of patience. And it is the key to success."

His greatest achievement is that he has clicked more than 60,000 pictures of various wild species like tigers, leopards, birds, butterflies and the like. "Another feat is that I have set up a bird bath at my house which is home to 140 species of birds ranging from migratory birds to different endemic birds." His photography has taken him to a number of national parks and forests like Nagarahole, Bandipur and Dandeli. "I was able to take a photograph of a black panther in Nagarahole and it was the only one left there," he said.

The young photographer goes on these ventures alone. He says he is not afraid of the wild because it has been a part of his growing up. "I am used to seeing these animals from a young age. I feel they are an integral part of my life." The idea of the exhibition was given to him by his parents. "I am overwhelmed at the response," he said.

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e-cart to take a load off pourakarmikas' shoulders

BBMP plans to run one e-cart at Madivala market to help workers collect vegetable waste

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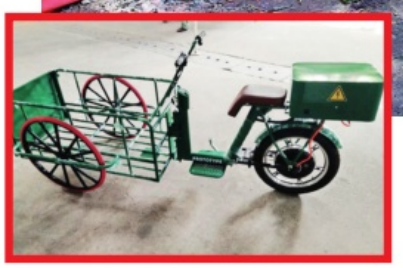
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to deploy e-carts on a pilot basis for the use of pourakarmikas. Initially, the cart will be used near Madivala market to carry segregated vegetable waste.

The busy Madivala market that sees huge footfalls also generates large quantities of vegetable waste. Without segregation, around 2-3 tonnes of vegetables end up in landfills. Vegetable waste is often mixed with different types of vegetables and plastic. Pourakarmikaras have been tasked with segregating at source and these segregated vegetables reach animals instead of landfills. The task involves them pushing around heavy push-carts for hours at length segregating the waste. While the process has seen quite a bit of success, pourakarmikaras have been burdened with heavy manual labour.

To ease their load, the BBMP plans to shift to electric vehicles. A single unit of the prototype e-cart will be deployed at the Madivala market. Based on the success of the pilot, more units might be added in future.



Sometimes pourakarmikas end up pushing around 500 kg of vegetable waste at the market; the e-cart (inset) will reduce manual labour

Lead partner at SVP India Padmashree Balaram told Bangalore Mirror more about the e-carts. "We wanted to transform the manual system to a mechanised system. Sometimes, the pourakarmikas end up pushing around 500 kgs of vegetable waste. The vehicle allows them to sit and it runs for 50 km at a single charge. Each vehicle needs to be charged for two hours. We have received permission to park at Indira Canteens and the vehicles will be charged there. The dry run was successful," Balaram said. Each vehicle would approximately cost Rs 3 lakh per unit.

BBMP SWM AEE Santosh said the e-carts have been proposed for shifting segregated waste to be fed to animals. "Earlier they had to push the cart for around half a kilometre. The new electric cart will allow them to complete tasks faster with less labour. It's an eco-friendly transport and does not require a driving licence to operate it. Through CSR funding, we have deployed one unit for now. A dedicated shed has been constructed for housing the vehicles. Alternatively, two ports are available at Indira canteen as well," he said.

While BBMP might be jumping into the electric vehicle (EV) segment, it has also cited scalability issues based on the current charging infrastructure in the city. "We are planning to issue a new tender for push carts but there are operational issues with e-carts. We are planning to deploy 20,000 push carts. Currently, we are not looking at electric vehicles either. The major problem is finding charging infrastructure and there is also a safety concern. In case, the e-vehicle incurs any issues, there is no alternative method available," said BBMP Special Commissioner(SWM), Harish Kumar. According to Kumar, the other major challenge is that people have to be educated about EVs. "BBMP is also giving incentives for use of EVs but we are making it mandatory. Primarily push carts are required in underdeveloped areas where charging facilities are insufficient and in places where charging infrastructure is present, there is no need for push carts. This may be difficult to implement in a bigger way," he said.

Pick up that sapling you've been waiting to plant

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After a break, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department plans to re-start its plantation effort -- with the planting of one lakh saplings. Covid had stalled the plan last year.

"We have floated a tender inviting bidders to plant one lakh saplings at various locations in the city this year. If all goes well, the plantation drive may begin shortly. We are expecting to complete the tender process by June 10," said BBMP Deputy Conservator of Forests Sareena Sikkaligar.

The Deputy Conservator of Forests said the BBMP would spend Rs 9 crore for planting one lakh saplings. "Planting of each sapling will cost Rs 900 including tree guard and labour," said Sikkaligar.

BBMP has around 3 lakh saplings to give out to the public

She said the BBMP would float one more tender to plant one lakh more saplings later.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said the BBMP began the plantation drive at Freedom Park and made arrangements to distribute saplings free of cost to the public for a week. The BBMP Chief Commissioner and the BBMP Administrator planted a sapling at Freedom Park. "The public must come forward to plant more saplings and look after them," he said.

The BBMP has been maintaining six nurseries and it has 5.60 lakh saplings to distribute to the public. The BBMP has claimed it has distributed 1.60 lakh saplings in 2021-22 and as of now there are 3 lakh saplings in nurseries at Kempapura, Doddabasti, Jnanabharathi, Mallathahalli, Kudlu and Attur.

Public can contact: Shivaram 9480683341 at BBMP Head Office, Mahesh JR 70919196107 at Kudlu nursery, Hanumanthappa Patil 9480685196 at Attur nursery, Chandrappa V 9164042566 at Jnanabharathi and Mallathahalli nurseries, Hanumanthappa Patil 9480685196 at Kempapura and Doddabasti nurseries for saplings.

"We will provide as many as saplings as per the requirement. We will consider the space available for planting saplings before handing saplings to the public. One needs to submit a requisition letter to the Forest Range Officer to avail of the saplings," said BBMP Forest Range Officer Chandrappa Patil.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) celebrated World Environment Day by planting a sapling at its Head Office premises. The KSRTC, in association with Sankalpa Taru Foundation, has prepared a plan to plant 4,500 saplings in four months.

The Cubbon Park Walkers Association organised a plantation drive at Cubbon Park on day and 315Work Avenue, a coworking firm, celebrated the day by planting 315 saplings at Koramangala.

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No water to drink

Majestic

A drinking water outlet at the BMTC KBS bus stand is just a show piece. None of the four outlets are working. It looks like bottled water companies and BMTC are hand in glove in this.

Digging delay

MS Nagar

New drains are being constructed at 3rd Cross, Indira Street, Subbanapalaya, MS Nagar Post. I am a wheelchair user, who has to go out daily to earn my food. It has become difficult for me to move out from house as the vehicle can't come near the house. No vehicle can enter the street in case of emergency too. Please hurry up and finish this work.

Live wire

Kalyan Nagar

On 3rd 'D' Cross III Block Kalyan Nagar, the branches of trees resting on live wires pose danger to residents. Authorities concerned should cut the branches immediately as it can lead to some serious situation otherwise.

B'luru volunteers light up remote parts of Leh, Ladakh

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A group of volunteers from Bengaluru, after lighting around 500 homes without electricity in remote indigenous forest settlements in Karnataka have reached out to supply solar lamps to dwellings at remote areas of Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh under the #LightTheNation programme.

#LightTheNation is an initiative by Karmodaya, a US based non-profit organisation founded by NRI professionals in partnership with The Good Quest Foundation, Hope Action Group and Kashmir Evangelical Fellowship (KEF).

#LightTheNation aims to bring light to the homes and lives of those who are still in the dark. "We have identified more than 40 families that have no electricity in remote areas of Leh and Ladakh. We are in touch with district administration to identify genuine families that have no electricity," said Andrew Thomas of KEF.

Vinod Kumar, co-founder of The Good Quest Foundation, told BM over the phone that the volunteers have already provided electricity to close to 500 homes in the remote indigenous forest settlements in the state of Karnataka in partnership with the department of Tribal Welfare and Forest, Govt of Karnataka. "We are reaching dwellings in remote areas in Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh that have no electricity. I am happy to be part of this initiative. Volunteers from Bengaluru will be here for a few more days and return home after handing the responsibility to the local volunteers," said Vinod Kumar.

Volunteers installing a solar lamp at a hutment and a makeshift tent

Santosh Kumar of The Good Quest Foundation said he was saddened to see people living without electricity in remote areas of Leh and Ladakh. "I find it a little bit tough to converse with people here as I don't know their language," he said.

The volunteers have decided to supply solar lights to the households in Upper Shey and Lower Shey in Leh, Zanskar and Kargil in Ladakh, and Batote, Majalta in Jammu & Kashmir. "While some homes have connection to the power grid but availability and reliability is poor due to infrastructure, terrain, and weather related limitations while others have no electricity," said Fr George Kannanthanam of Hope Action Group.

The solar kits are donated and installed free of cost to the families. Each solar kit consists of a solar panel, one tube light, two bulb lights, a regulator with a port to charge cell phones and a chargeable solar torch. "Our trained volunteers will install the solar kits in the houses of the beneficiaries. They will also provide the support to make sure that units are running smoothly during their lifetime. The project will be completed in June or July 2022," said Vinod Kumar.

Brakes on Mission Road white-topping

Cops want BBMP to finish Goodshed road work before taking up Mission road

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The police have thrown water over the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) plan to take up white-topping work on Mission Road. They have asked that first the white-topping work of Goodshed Road be completed before it starts at Mission Road.

The Goodshed Road has been completely blocked and is leading to traffic congestion in the nearby areas. So, the cops want to wait for the BBMP to finish this road before taking up another one. The news was shared by BBMP Special Commissioner (Project) PN Ravindranath. "The white-topping work at Goodshed and Seshadri roads is nearing completion. We also wanted to take up Mission Road. But, cops have refused permission asking us to complete the Goodshed Road first. We cannot take up work at all the places as it will inconvenience the motorists so we will take up projects one after another," he said.

He said that BBMP had taken up white topping along stretches adding up to 90 km. Out of this, work on 9-km stretch of road is yet to be completed. The road work near Gandhi Bazaar, Kanakanapalya and Bangalore University campus is pending. At the campus, the project was given to a single contractor and now the civic agency is in the process of re-tendering so that the road from Mysuru Road to Ullal Main Road via University campus can be taken up at the earliest. Of the 32-km stretch of TenderSURE roads, 30 km has been completed so far.

Goodshed Road shut

As of now, the entire Goodshed road is shut to traffic. This is a key road that connects the southern parts of the city with the Majestic area and beyond. The progress of Goodshed Road has been quite slow, testing the patience of locals and motorists. The Cottonpet Main road and Goodshed Road are two key connecting roads from Majestic to KR Market and other localities.

However, the upgradation of these roads has taken longer than expected. The traffic on the Cottonpet road was stalled for a few years for white topping and now it is open to traffic. However, Goodshed Road has been shut for the last six months for upgradation and still there are no signs of the work completion. BBMP officials say the work requires some more time to be over. Earlier, BBMP officials had claimed that the work would be completed in three months. However, even after six months, it is yet to be done.

White-topping work on Seshadri Road was taken up in phases as the entire road could not be shut to traffic in one go

Seshadri Rd to be ready

The white-topping work is being taken up at a cost of Rs 16 crore in this 1.2 kilometre stretch of Seshadri Road.

The project started on April 4, 2022. As it is one of the busiest arterial roads in the city, the entire road could not be shut down at one go for white topping. Hence, the work was taken up in phases. So far, 70% of the work is completed and the BBMP hopes to complete the concretisation in fortnight and another 10 days would be required for curing the concrete.

Why go for white topping?

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has proposed to take up the White Topping on Selected Roads in Bengaluru City White topping is a cement concrete overlay on an existing bituminous pavement. BBMP has taken up the white topping work under the Special Infrastructure Projects Grants.

Despite criticism of this method, the BBMP officials claim that the blacktopping roads found commonly in the city have an expected life span of five years. "The arterial roads which have been maintained by BBMP were in need of maintenance/ rehabilitation due to wear and tear from heavy traffic during peak hours.

Also, drainage is a major cause of concern in the rainy season which was affecting the life of pavement in terms of structural failure. Hence in order to overcome the failure, white topping has been taken up.

Hence to prevent the formation of potholes and to provide roads offering better riding, major roads need to be white-topped. The white-topped roads are expected to last up to 15-20 years," said an official.

Gauri murder: List of witnesses filed before court

The Special Public Prosecutor in the murder case of journalist Gauri Lankesh filed a list of witnesses before a Bengaluru City Civil and Sessions Court.

The SPP submitted the list to the court on Saturday.

In response, the defendants' attorney appealed for a list of electronic evidence that is part of the investigation.

The court has adjourned the hearing to June 6 for objections, if any to the plea, to be filed. The trial will be held from July 4 to July 8 and for a week every month.

Lankesh was killed outside her residence in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in the city on September 5, 2017. **PTI**

Prithvi Reddy appointed AAP's Karnataka unit president

Prithvi Reddy has once again been appointed as the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Karnataka state president while retired IPS officer and former Bengaluru police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao and Vijay Sharma are the state vice-presidents.

"As directed by AAP's National Leader and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Dileep Pandey who is the party's election in-charge, reconstituted the office-bearers' team in the state," the party said in a statement.

The party said Mohan Dasari is the new Bengaluru city president while Sanchith Sahani is the party's state general secretary, Hariharan as the state treasurer, Jagadish V Sadam as the state media convenor and K Mathai as the state spokesperson.

H D Basavraju, Dr. Venkatesh, B T Naganna, Lakshmikanth Rao and Shantala Damle were appointed as state secretaries. Darshan Jain and Vivekananda Salins were appointed as joint secretaries of the Karnataka unit. **PTI**

No amenities at halt station

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

if the catering stall is open,'' said Jagadeesh R, a resident of Hoodi.

The other inconvenience is the ticket counter. Railway passengers complained that the clerk at the ticket counter does not open it on time to issue tickets to them.

"I am waiting here to buy the ticket for Bangarpet but the ticket counter is closed. I am afraid of boarding the train without buying the ticket. The ticket collector on the train would not believe me if I said that the ticket counter was closed. The railway authorities must ensure the ticket counter is open to avoid inconvenience to the railway passengers,'' said Vicky, a railway passenger.

Railway activists complained that the condition of many halt stations is similar to that of Hoodi halt station. "Toilet trouble is not the only problem of Hoodi halt railway station. The toilets are shut at Krishnadevaraya halt railway station as well. The foot over bridge has been incomplete for many months. I want railway authorities to keep toilets open for the benefit of railway passengers,'' said Abhishekh, a railway activist.

Meanwhile, a Railways public relations officer said the public sector entity could not provide many amenities since Hoodi railway station is a halt station.

"I will instruct the person in charge of Hoodi halt railway station to open the toilets for public use and ensure drinking water for railway passengers. It is his responsibility to keep the station premises clean. I will look into the matter,'' he said.

Brace for rain, Karnataka

The weatherman has forecast an increase in rainfall activity over the southern peninsula from Tuesday onwards.

"Fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorm/lightning is very likely over Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe and Lakshadweep and isolated to scattered over Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal during next five days," the IMD said.

It said squally weather with wind speed 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph were very likely over the southwest Arabian Sea during the next three days and advised fishermen not to venture into these areas.

According to the IMD, rainfall over the country as a whole for the month of May was 83.4 mm, which was 34 per cent more than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 62 mm based on the data of 1961-2010. During May 2022, rainfall over South Interior Karnataka (232.3 mm) was highest since 1901, the IMD said. **PTI**

Dark side of the Sun

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

So far, BESCOM has utilised Rs 39.18 crore of the fund allocated under the 13th finance commission for the installation of SRTPV plants on government buildings. According to Ramesh Shivanna, president of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KREDLE), Rs 39.18 crore is a small amount looking at the targets.

"BESCOM was appointed as the nodal agency for rooftop solar about six years ago. Looking at the period, if they have surveyed 142 buildings across the state, this is a minuscule number. Bengaluru itself has more than 142 government buildings. If rooftop solar is installed in more government buildings, it will not only help us achieve the target, but will also ensure business opportunities for integrators and MSMEs," said Shivanna.

Experts further noted that the rooftop solar programme can gain momentum only if the government buildings lead from the front, with an expansion plan in store.

"Instead of putting pressure on the residential sector, government buildings should lead from the front. After all, they have all the funds required to do so. Moreover, only around 1% of the residential sector has the resources to commit to the investment required for installing rooftop solar panels. Government buildings will help achieve the overall target. Moreover, 15 MW in government buildings is not sufficient. They should soon have an expansion plan," said Nayan M of Jhatkaa.org

Power experts said the utility company should look at awarding the tenders to multiple integrators to ensure an accelerated pace. While tenders for rooftop solar panel installation have been called twice so far and awarded to integrators, the first tender got canceled due to a tender-related technical issue.

"The contractors realised they will have to shell out 30-40% of the cost and they backed out. Currently, there is an integrator, but the programme is moving at a slow pace. Moreover, while BESCOM circulated an SRTPV tender two years ago for around 60 MW of rooftop, it was awarded to a single company. They could have distributed it among multiple contractors to ensure a faster implementation," said the expert, adding that if BESCOM can manage the tender properly, achieving the numbers is not an issue -- "We have enough buildings, a good number of integrators and ample solar energy to harness."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Birendra /Birendra Kumar / Birendra Kumar Jain / B.K.Jain / Birendra Kumar Betala S/o Champalal Betala and residing At 504 A Pride Pavillion Apts , 1 stage , 6th Phase , West of Chord Raod Bangalore North -10 has change my name and will be Known as Birendra Betala for all the purposes.

I, Sunita Devi Betala / Sunita Devi / Sunita Devi Jain / Sunita W/O Birendra Betala and residing At 504 A Pride Pavillion Apts , 1 stage , 6th Phase , West of Chord Road Bangalore North -10 has change my name and will be Known as Sunitha Betala for all the purposes.

I, Narendra /Narendra Kumar / Narendra Kumar Jain / N.K.Jain S/o Champalal Betala , residing at 6 - Chowdappa Road, 1st Flr , Shanti Nagar , Bangalore - 27 has change my name and will be Known as Narendra Kumar Betala for all the purposes.

I Sharada Sathish Kumar R/a No. 347, 3rd Main, BSK 3rd stage Channammanakere Achukattu B'lore-560085. I have changed my name to SHARADA CHAPUR SUBRAMANYA SHASTRY Vide aff dt: 03/06/2022. Sworn before Notary : Devaraja E.

I, Basant / Basant Kumar / Basant Kumar Jain / B.K.Jain S/o Champalal Betala and residing At 34, Nanjappa Road, Shanti Nagar , Bangalore - 27 has change my name and will be Known as Basant Kumar Betala for all the purposes.

I Manju Jain / Manju/ Manju Devi / Manjula / Manju Devi Jain W/o Narendra Kumar Betala residing At 6-Chowdappa Road, 1st Flr , Shanti Nagar , Bangalore - 27 has change my name and will be Known as Manjula Betala for all the purposes.

I, Surendra / Surendra Kumar / Surendra Kumar Jain / S.K.Jain S/o Champalal Betala residing At 57/2 Laxmi Road, Bangiappa Garden , Shanti Nagar , Bangalore - 27 has change my name and will be Known as Surendra Kumar Betala for all the purposes.

I , Anju Devi / Anju Jain / Anju / Anju Kumari W/o Surendra Kumar Betala residing At 57/2 Laxmi Road, Bangiappa Garden, Shanti Nagar , Bangalore - 27 has change my name and will be Known as Anju Devi Betala for all the purposes.

I, Venkatesh Sharma alias N M Venkatesh Sharma S/O, late. N K Muthuswamy R/O 2B, Kubera Sampath, 5/2, 18th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560 055, Karnataka, have changed my name to VenSherman for all purposes, vide Affidavit dated 17/05/2022

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Docs to don khadi

Undergraduate Medical Education Board advisory issued on June 1 asks doctors to wear khadi white coats, hospitals to make use of textile

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Though some doctors said this might be a comfortable option, others not so sure

You may be used to seeing netas in khadi clothes, but soon doctors too will be sporting khadi in hospitals and clinics. In the latest advisory issued on June 1, the Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UMEB) under the National Medical Commission (NMC) has asked the doctors to wear khadi white coats. The UMEB is entrusted with determining standards of medical education at undergraduate level and oversee all aspects relating developing competency based dynamic curriculum at undergraduate level in accordance with the regulations made under the NMC Act.

The advisory issued by Dr Aruna V Vanikar, President, UMEB (a copy available with Mirror) states that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides linkages with established marketing agencies in order to promote sale and marketing of khadi and or products of village industries or handicrafts.

The KVIC has also been providing financial assistance to institutions and individuals for development and operation of khadi and village industries and generating employment for millions of people in rural areas. Apart from above, KVIC also aims at the usage of khadi products which are especially designed and manufactured for medical professionals such as bed sheets, pillow covers, aprons, curtains, patient's gowns, soaps, hand wash, phenyl etc. It has now scientifically proven that products made of khadi are not only beneficial for health but also eco-friendly. "As doctors are required to wear white coat mandatorily during the duty hours, they are advised to use the white coat made of khadi. All doctors and college/hospital managements are advised to encourage the usage of khadi products at their institutes, hospitals, nursing homes etc and help in providing employment and building up a self-reliant and strong rural community."

Following this circular, many hospitals are now busy coordinating with their clients and office staff to check the feasibility of usage of khadi in the wards. A senior administrator of a private hospital said, "It may not be possible to immediately change the bed sheets or other stocks to khadi as this would mean we would be discarding the existing items. However, we can look at replacing it when our current stocks are worn out or need to be replaced. However, all these depend on the cost factor of the new khadi products besides availability. The move is good but a lot depends on economics if everyone has to adopt in Bengaluru."

> **"It may not be possible to immediately change the bed sheets or other stocks to khadi as this would mean we discard the existing items. We can replace it at a later point** –Hospital admin staff

The circular has received mixed reactions. Dr Krishnamurthy P, a family physician, said, "We are supposed to wear white coats during most parts of the day when we are treating patients. I feel that khadi may be comfortable as our netas wear it throughout the day. A lot depends on the availability of such white coats as it would require time before the demand increases."

However, Dr Shashi Kumar M, who works in a medical college said, "I don't know if doctors can individually adopt it in hospitals or medical colleges. We want to wait for a similar advisory from the management. If the management decides that khadi should be used, then they should also coordinate with KVIC for supply of khadi clothes as well."

In January this year, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had announced its association with KVIC for providing students (UG and PG) with internship opportunities and to build entrepreneurial skills. The AICTE had suggested students could take up internship opportunities with KVIC state/ divisional offices and on selection will get to work across different departments of their interest. KVIC was also planning to roll out a scholarship programme for students to undertake research projects on its multiple schemes. Prof. Anil D Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE had said that India was a giant in the ITES industry and it was time to ensure engineering students helped villages through ITES and make them more self-reliant and promote entrepreneurship.

Throw revised syllabus into dustbin: Siddaramaiah

Even as Karnataka Chief Minister disbanded the Textbook Revision Committee and tried to pull down the curtains on the controversy surrounding syllabus revision, leader of the opposition Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that the revised syllabus deserves to be thrown into the dustbin.

"Education Minister BC Nagesh has revealed the truth. He says syllabus revision has been made as sentiments of Hindus were hurt. Now the minister should clarify who is a Hindu and who has hurt their sentiments,"

Siddaramaiah held a meeting with Congress leaders in Mysuru on Sunday

he said. "Huge protests have broken out and protesters are Hindus. They do not belong to another religion. Is it not so Minister Nagesh?" Siddaramaiah questioned.

The great personalities like Basavanna, Dr BR Ambedkar, Savithri Bai Phule, Narayana Guru, Kuvempu have been side-lined. The Chairman of the Revision Committee has looked down upon them while defending his revised syllabus. These allegations have been raised by Hindus, Siddaramaiah maintained.

He also questioned Minister Nagesh, "Why scholars of backward and Dalit classes have not found representation at all in the Textbook Revision Committee. Don't they belong to the category of Hindus that Minister Nagesh is talking about? They were not given representation because of caste reasons." He also said that Basavanna and Dr BR Ambedkar were neglected in the revised syllabus and were insulted as they changed their religion.

"The Dalits and backward classes comprise large chunk of population in this country. Most children who come to government schools belong to these categories. The developments related to syllabus revision have pained them also," Siddaramaiah said. **–IANS**

Wildlife rehab training from B'luru NGO with love

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Urban Wildlife Rehabilitator Workshop at PfA on Sunday

Bengaluru-based NGO's People for Animals(PfA) Hospital has earned a reputation for animal rehabilitation and rescue work is becoming popular in other states as well.

The NGO is receiving requests from Tamil Nadu and Kerala to conduct workshops for volunteers and many are travelling to Bengaluru to attend the workshops.

"People from Tamil Nadu approached us to hold 'Urban Wildlife Rehabilitator Workshop'. There were around 15 people had come to attend today's session. Some were individuals who wanted to learn more about rehabilitation and some belonged to wildlife organisations. Through the workshop, we are teaching people how to hand-feed formulas and captive management in areas where rescue centres are not present. We are showing them how animals are fed, mammals, reptiles and birds, caging, surgical facilities, rehabilitation of a variety of animals in different settings," said Chief Veterinarian, Col, Dr Nawaz Shariff.

According to the NGO, they are also getting requests for workshops from other states especially in places with no animal rehabilitation centres. Trained with the PfA hospital, they will now start rehabilitating animals in their respective areas.

Worshop learnings

PfA held the day-long workshop covering various aspects of animal rescue and rehabilitation.

"Rehabilitation is a lesser-known subject. I haven't seen a setup like this before. Every box is designed for host-specific animals. We also got to learn about legal issues about animal rescue and learned to make homemade feed for squirrels and birds. We also learn about how to feed six different animals," said S Padmaja, a veterinary student from Chennai.

Subhashree, an IT worker who lives in a city had to rescue birds and snakes but lacked the skill sets.

"After the rescue, you need to rehabilitate the animal. This training will help me rescue the animal and increase its chances of survival. There is very less information about the benefits of snakes and they are often attacked by humans." she added.

Highlighting his experiences, Gopi Janarthanand, a volunteer from URVANAM said, "We are a group of volunteers assisting the forest team with animal rescue. But we lacked knowledge about rehabilitation. We have volunteers from different districts of Tamil Nadu and we usually encounter parakeets, mongoose, lorels, pythons, cobras, etc. There are a few experienced people who have been helping us but the rehabilitation of animals has been a major challenge."

In Conversation: Mahesh Anand, President – Decorative, Nippon Paint India

'Physical stores are here to stay for a bit longer'

Mahesh Anand tells Shreyashi Mukherjee about what the company's future plans are for Karnataka, on an air-purifying paint and state's colour choices

In an exclusive interview with Bangalore mirror, Mahesh Anand, President – Decorative, Nippon Paint Association, who was in town for a short while, revealed his plans of launching two new products as well as expanding the business in Karnataka among other things. Excerpts:

What are the new products that you are planning to launch in Karnataka?
We are going to launch two products. One is for the interior category, interior emulsion which we can call a luxury premium emulsion and one in the exterior category which will be an exterior emulsion.

What will be the unique selling point of these products?
The interior product is something unique. We are calling it an air purifying and anti-viral and anti-pathogenic type of a product. We came up with this product because people usually spend more time indoors. Then there is also the theory that the indoors is more polluted than the outdoors as there are a lot of impurities in the air indoors. So, this paint literally does the function of purifying the air. The paint absorbs the formaldehyde which is present in the air, converts it into water vapour which then finally dissolves into the paint. So, the indoor air will be as pure as possible.

What is the research and development that went behind it and what were the challenges you faced while you were coming up with this idea?
As soon as the pandemic hit us, we started working globally with the research institutes. We call that as open innovation and we started working extensively in Japan with the research universities to bring out antiviral paint.
Some of the challenges that we faced was the question that in India are people ready to accept the product at that price point and that still is going to be a challenge for us. It is still going to take some time to popularise the concept of air-purifying paint. However, people are still buying, and we hope that it will only pick up from here.

Is there a particular range that people are preferring more in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu?
Both the states are very progressive. The South is more of an emulsion driven market and both the states are keen on experimenting. It is a premium market. The colour choices are different. There is not yet proper research, but Karnataka is a bit savvy towards the colour yellow because it is the colour which is close to their hearts. Moreover, yellow does not fade as much as blue, grey or pink. So that way people like to go more for ivory or yellow.

Nippon is planning on opening 600 retail shops in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. So, how many shops are you planning to open in Bengaluru?
Bengaluru contributes to almost 40 percent of Karnataka's market, and it is comparatively more cosmopolitan. And there are different community people present here as sellers, so as many as 40-45 percent of the stores will be focused on Bengaluru.

In a time where everything is being digitised, do you think physical markets will be successful?
For another few years the physical stores will be required because paint is something which has various ranges, and we are offering more than 2,500 shades so one needs to see the actual tint and go to a physical store to understand the actual colour. The painter and the applicator are also present in the stores, and they help in explaining the nitty gritties of paint in detail to the customer, which will not be possible online. Hence physical stores will be needed.

Will there be any new age facilities for the customers who will walk into the stores?
Currently we have stores called inspire stores which is a basic retail experience for customers. We provide everything required for paint like construction, chemicals, sealant and whatever we are having, and we provide touch and feel panels on that. We ask the customer their choices and what they want along with colour finish and price. We also have an inspiration software that helps the customers in visualising how their homes will look after painting. They just need to bring a picture of their building and we will be able to show them how it would look with different colours. We give them samples and applicators who are trained and certified by us as we are training partners for the Paints and Coating Skill Council (PCSC).

Nippon has launched Spotless Nxt recently. What is the speciality of that range?
Spotless is a paint which has basically a beading effect which is also known as lotus leaf effect. So as soon as any liquid falls on the painted surface, it will turn into a bead and roll down without leaving a stain. It is working very well in the market. We did not actually expect that much growth and we are growing very well in that sector.

Non-compete clause to ensure confidentiality: Infosys tells Centre

The non-compete clause in its offer letters is to ensure business confidentiality and is a common practice among information technology (IT) companies in India,

Infosys said in a letter dated May 24 to the deputy chief labour commissioner in New Delhi. This came in response to calls for discussions on the issue after Pune-based labour union Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate urged the labour ministry in April to ask the Bengaluru-based IT services provider to remove the clause in its employment contracts.

Three calls for joint discussions between the parties turned out to be unsuccessful after Infosys' executives skipped the meetings.

"The purpose of the clause under discussion is to ensure business and client confidentiality. Moreover, the obligation is applicable for a very limited period only," India's second largest IT services provider by revenue said. ET has reviewed a copy of the letter.

"Further, the clause under discussion is fairly common and standard business practice in employment contracts in the IT services sector in India. Candidates voluntarily agree to be bound by the obligations specified in the clause prior to joining the company, recognising the relevance and importance of such a clause," said Santhosh K Nair, associate vice president in the human resource department of Infosys.

Remis Tiru, the deputy chief labour commissioner, had forwarded the original complaints to state labour commissioners of Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka on Thursday. "Further, as the appropriate government under the extant Labour Laws in the matter is the State Government, the matter is therefore being forwarded for further necessary action," according to Tiru's letter. ET has also seen a copy of the communication. According to Infosys' offer letter, an employee should not accept for six months an employment offer from "named competitors" such as TCS, Wipro and HCL Technologies, among others, if the new job involves working with a customer with whom the employee had worked in the preceding 12 months during his/her stint

– ET Online

Ranji Trophy knock-out rounds in city from today

SS Shreekumar
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The knock-out rounds of the Ranji Trophy national cricket championship 2021-22 gets underway here from Monday. Hosts Karnataka clash with Uttar Pradesh at the Alur Cricket Stadium, Bengal meet Jharkhand at the Just Cricket grounds, Mumbai take on Uttarakhand at the Alur II grounds and Punjab clash with Madhya Pradesh at the Alur III grounds in the four quarter-final clashes which are being played simultaneously.

The semi-finals will be played at two of the Alur grounds from June 14 with the final slated to be held at the Chinnaswamy Stadium from June 22.

Karnataka have the edge

Karnataka topped Elite Group C with 16 points from three games, having won two and played out a draw in another. Karnataka drew with Railways after taking the first innings lead, defeated Jammu & Kashmir by 117 runs and Puducherry by an innings and 20 runs. Batsman KL Rahul and paceman Prasidh Krishna will be on National duty and are not among the Karnataka squad.

KV Siddharth topped the batting for Karnataka having scored 358 runs in three matches with one century and two fifties. Manish Pandey is second to just Siddharth with 325 runs in three games with two hundreds to his credit while Devdutt Padikkal has made 260 runs in three outings with one century. R. Samarth (248) and Karun Nair (252) have also been among the runs while Mayank Agarwal has made 72 runs in the only game he has played. More importantly, Karnataka has a long tail with a number of them capable of producing effective knocks when required.

SPORTS

Karnataka Ranji team captain Manish Pandey in action during the nets practice session ahead of the Ranji Quarterfinals, at KSCAB Grounds on Saturday

In the bowling department, paceman Prasidh Krishna has claimed 15 wickets in four innings in just two outings while bowling all-rounder Krishnappa Gowtham has bagged 14 wickets in six innings in three matches with leggie Shreyas Gopal has 11 wickets from six innings in three games. Vidyadhar Patil (7 wickets) and Ronit More (3 wickets) have also dealt crucial blows at times.

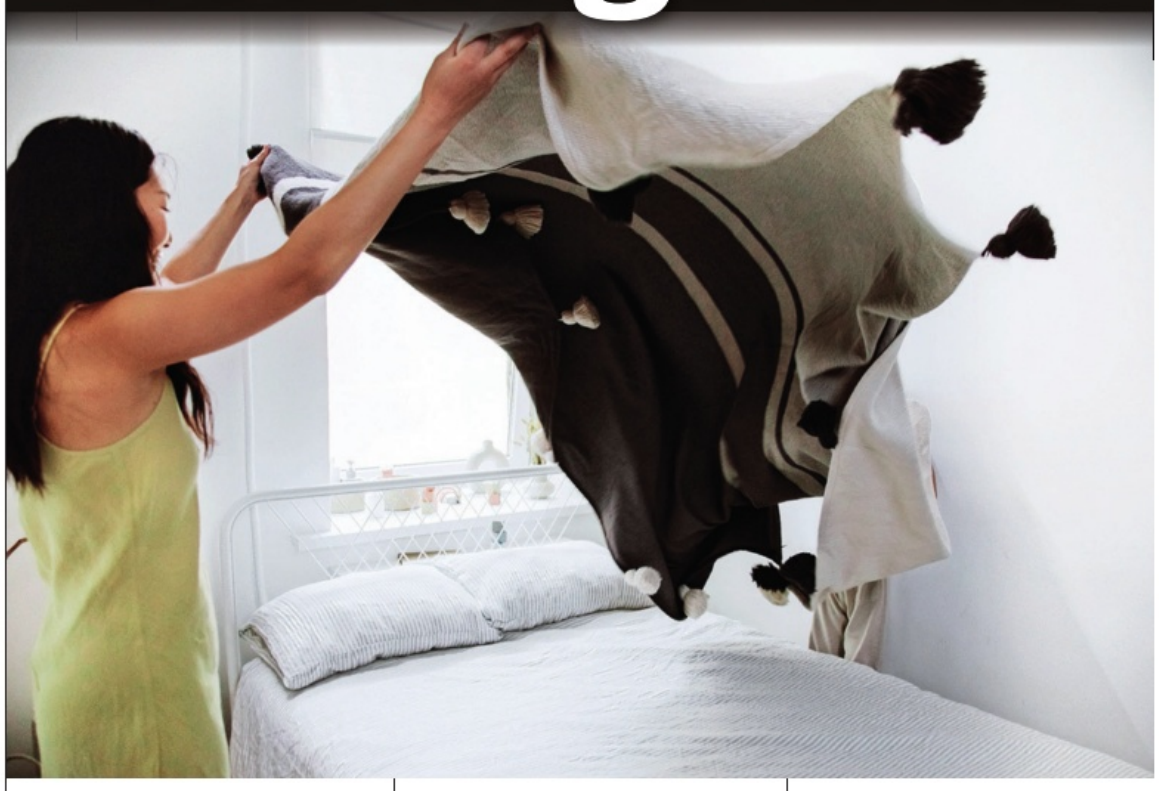
Karnataka came through a rather easy group and were never tested by any of the teams. Uttar Pradesh were on top of Elite Group G with 13 points from three games with a draw and two wins. Vidarbha, Maharashtra and Assam were UP's opponents in the group. UP drew with Vidarbha after conceding the first innings lead, beating Maharashtra by six wickets and Assam by the same margin. PK Garg and RP Singh have been UP's top batsmen. AS Rajdoot has 12 wickets from five innings in three matches for UP. In contrast, UP had a tougher group to negotiate and they did well to emerge on top. Mumbai (16 points) and Uttarakhand (12 points) emerged on top of Group D and E respectively, Bengal (18) took the top spot in group B while Jharkhand (12) topped group H and Madhya Pradesh (14) topped group A while their opponents Punjab were on top of group F to set up these quarter-final clashes.

HEALTH TIP: The most important thing to manage migraines is to regulate activity levels, sleep/wake cycles, eating and drinking, and levels of stress

The fiber, potassium, vitamin C, vitamin B-6, and antioxidants in eggplants support heart health

Biggest impact after a bad infestation of blood-sucking parasites may be on mental health

Don't let the bed bugs bite



Bed bugs are back with a vengeance. After an absence of around 70 years, thanks to effective pesticides such as DDT, they've been popping up in fancy hotels, spas, department stores, subway trains, movie theaters – and, of course, people's homes.

I'm a public health entomologist. In the course of my work, I've studied these little bloodsuckers, even letting bed bugs feast on my own appendages in the name of science. No one likes dealing with bed bugs – and there are ways to minimise your chances of needing to.

Know thy bed bug enemy

The common bed bug, Cimex lectularius, has been a parasite of humans for thousands of years. Historically, these tiny bloodsuckers were common in human dwellings worldwide, giving the old saying "sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite" real meaning. They had nearly disappeared in developing countries until the mid-1990s, when they began making a comeback because of restriction or loss of certain pesticides, changes in pest control practices and increased international travel. In many areas around the world, they are now a major urban pest.

Adult bed bugs are less than a quarter-inch long (about 5 mm), oval-shaped and flattened, resembling unfed ticks or small cockroaches. Tucked backward underneath their head they have a long proboscis – a tubular mouthpart they can extend to take a blood meal. A bed bug needs only between three and 10 minutes to consume up to six times its weight in blood in a single meal.

Adults are reddish brown, while the babies are extremely tiny and yellowish-white in colour. They hide in cracks and crevices, generally within a few feet of a bed, coming out only to feed on an unsuspecting host. Then they run back to their hiding places, where they mate and lay eggs.

Houses can become infested with thousands of the little bloodthirsty pests in the mattress and box spring, where they leave telltale black fecal spots. In severe infestations there may be thick feces, hundreds of shed skins and eggs several millimeters thick.

Biggest health impacts may be psychological

Bed bugs have been suspected in the transmission of more than 40 disease organisms, but there is little evidence bed bugs transmit human pathogens, with the possible exception of the microorganism that causes Chagas disease.

Extreme infestations can, in rare cases, lead to blood loss severe enough to cause anaemia.

Their principal medical impacts are related to nuisance biting and the associated itching and inflammation. The most common bite reactions are itchy red spots at feeding sites that usually go away in a week or so. Some people have complex skin reactions, including hives and blisters, or allergic responses.

Then there's bed bugs' emotional and psychological effects on their victims. Run-ins with these parasites can trigger nervousness, anxiety and insomnia. Bed bugs commonly come with a side effect of constant worrying and feelings of shame. One distressed Canadian expressed it this way:

"To be honest, until you go through [an infestation], you have no idea just how horrifying it really is. It is just natural for you to become paranoid; you lose sleep, you end up dreaming and thinking about bed bugs – they just consume every fiber of your being."

One study of people exposed to bed bugs found about half reported sleep difficulties and social isolation associated with the infestation.

My colleague and I analyzed 135 internet posts concerning bed bug infestations. The majority, 81% of the posts, reported three or more behaviors commonly associated with post-traumatic stress disorder – reactions like reexperiencing the event through intrusive memories and nightmares, startle responses and hypervigilance.

Six posts detailed intense and repeated cleanings of homes or offices. Five posts reported persistent avoidance of people, activities and places that might lead to transmission of insects or arouse recollections of the original encounter. And five posts detailed suicidal thoughts or attempts. There are other anecdotal reports of suicides or drug overdoses by people struggling with bed bugs.

> **A bed bug needs only between three and 10 minutes to consume up to six times its weight in blood in a single meal. They hide in cracks and crevices, generally within a few feet of a bed**

How to protect yourself from bed bugs

Not every hotel room has bed bugs, but some do. Simple precautions can help protect you and your belongings from infestation.

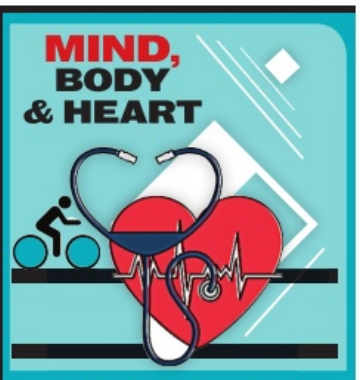
Leave all unnecessary items in your vehicle, such as extra clothing, gear and equipment. When first entering your hotel room, place luggage in the bathroom until you have had a chance to inspect the place. Pull back sheets and check the mattress and box spring for live bed bugs or black fecal spots. If any bugs or suspicious signs of infestation are found, go to the front desk and request another room. Because bed bugs don't usually travel far on their own, other non-adjacent rooms may be perfectly clean of the parasites.

Keeping bed bugs out of houses and apartments can be difficult, especially if you travel a lot. After travelling, unpack luggage outside or in the garage, and wash all clothing from the luggage in hot water and dry on high heat if possible. A dryer is a great tool in the fight against bed bugs. Bed bugs can also hitch a ride into your home on used furniture or items purchased at secondhand stores or garage sales. Be sure to disinfect – more precisely "dis-insect" – those kinds of items. It's a good idea to never purchase used mattresses or beds, no matter how good a bargain.

What can you do if you are forced to confront these bloodsuckers? A bed bug infestation found in a hotel room should immediately be reported to management. If you find bed bugs in your home, or in secondhand purchases, it's best not to try to spray them yourself with over-the-counter pesticides. My recommendation is to contact a competent pest exterminator, who will treat the space with pesticides, use complex heat systems or both to kill the bugs.

Try not to panic. Keep in mind that bed bugs are only insects. They're not magic. Believe me, they can be killed and eliminated from a dwelling.

— Jerome Goddard, Mississippi State University, The Conversation via PTI



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I met this incredibly hot guy recently and we've had a few dates. He's a personal trainer, so he has it all going on in terms of his body and is very sexy.
I had early worries that he was a bit dull, as he talks about his fitness regime a lot, which I have no interest in at all.
I just keep hoping that the conversation will eventually improve, but so far it hasn't.
I find him so attractive and the sex is really good - but my question is, can this work if there's no topic of conversation other than how many reps he's done at the gym or his latest smoothie recipe?
I've been single for a long time, so I was really hoping that this relationship was the start of something good.

COLEEN SAYS

Not everyone is great at conversation, especially at the start of a new relationship – he might be a bit shy or a bit insecure, but his fitness is something he knows he can talk about with complete confidence.
He clearly works hard to look that good and is passionate about it. However, sometimes good looks and great sex aren't enough, especially if you're thinking long term.
I'd also be worried he'd encourage me to start working out too. Um, no thank you.
Why not give it a bit more time to see if there's anything else there and just enjoy it for what it is now? It will soon become clear if this relationship has potential or if it's just a fun was about.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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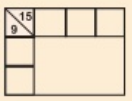
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

After 16 years, Julie will be three times as old as she is now. Find her present age.

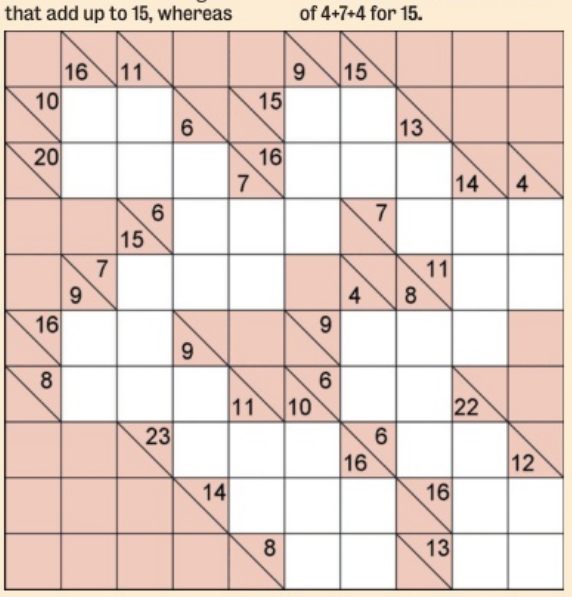
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

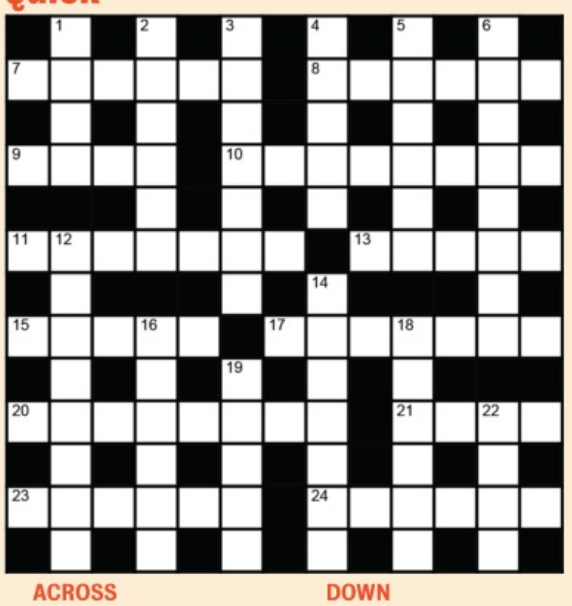


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Put to rights (6)
8 Ripen or mature (6)
9 Ms Bhatt of Bollywood (4)
10 Unfairness (8)
11 Sweetheart (7)
13 Rebuffs, repulses or blackballs (5)
15 Prisons on ships (5)
17 Browbeats (7)
20 Our erstwhile PHL team (2-6)
21 Wickedness (4)
23 A shooting star (6)
24 Going wrong (6)

DOWN

1 Narrate (4)
2 Sell (6)
3 Cleanliness (7)
4 Bone prefix (5)
5 The ringed planet (6)
6 Movable, not stationary or fixed (8)
12 Jet, Indigo, Go Air, etc (8)
14 Took a shot in the dark (7)
16 ____ jubilee : fiftieth anniversary? (6)
18 Distinctive dress (6)
19 Small roundish fruit (5)
22 Ice-cream cornet? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS O

S CFXXCI FW TWI'H TOW YTMAIX FH RIXXIQ XZSW KVMZ FW SWTXZIQ KSW'H YVQHI.

Linemaro

I don't know which was the last day I didn't think of you

Mindchow

I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much

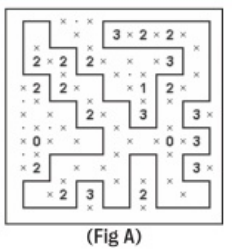
Joke of the day

Sign on an electrician's truck: Let us remove your shorts

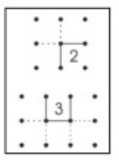
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

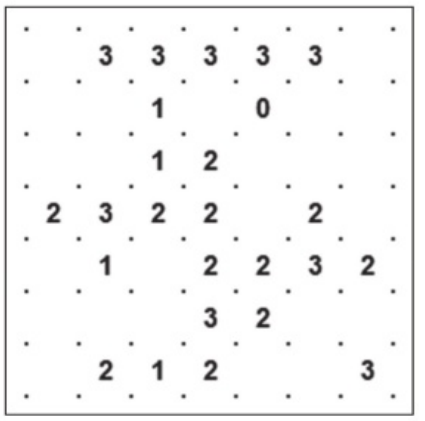


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

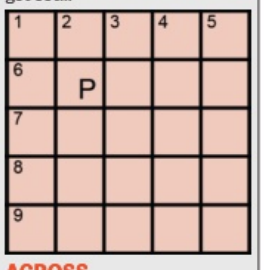


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

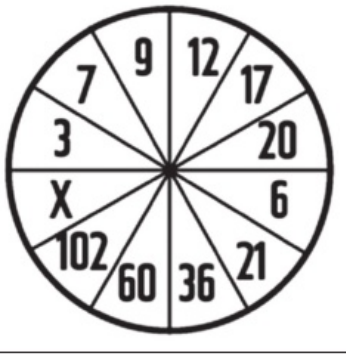
1 Sones; 6 Le Pap; 7 Weird; 8 Amnia; 9 Being

DOWN

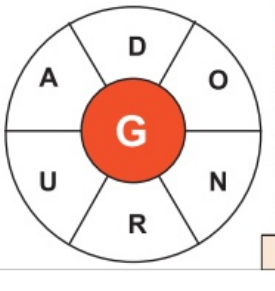
1 Bwana; 2 Open I; 3 Prigs; 4 Emile; 5 Andes

Mensapuzzle

What is X?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3				9		
5		1		4		7		6
	2		5		9		3	
	1		2		6		5	
		7				6		
	8		9		3		1	
	7		1		2		4	
9		5		8		1		2
		2				3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
1 1 2 2

Medium = 62
4 5 7 7

Hard = 6
1 3 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

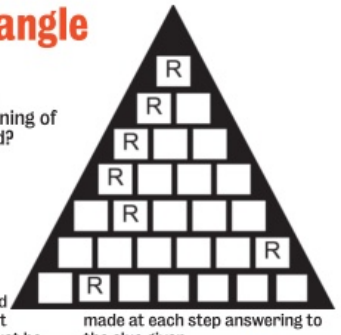
Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Handle is different. 3. Tires are fatter. 4. Book is added. 5. Signpost is moved. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

Riddler

I've many holes but I will never leak Not comfortable? Just give me a tweak Though often together most of the day Come bedtime we'll go our separate ways Life without me might be kind of a drag 'Cause when I'm not around things tend to sag Doing my job, your reliable mate This is a "hold-up" you'll appreciate What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Again, abbr.
3 Colour of danger
4 Perceive the meaning of
5 Make the succeed?
6 Male goose
7 Nobleman



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR A SUICIDE MISSION
3-23
OKAY, TANGLEFOOT, YOU'VE GOT IT.!
I SURE PICKED A DUMB TIME TO FIND OUT WHICH WAY THE WIND WAS BLOWING

Bizarrotrip

The insomnia is getting worse. My alarm is set for May, but I start tossing & turning by January.
Wayno & 7 Piraro. 4-2-22
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2022 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

WHAT IS OUR LOVE LIKE, SAM?
OUR LOVE IS LIKE A REUSABLE BIRTHDAY CAKE CANDLE
A WHAT?
ONE FOR THE AGES
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Hart of the city

THE CRUNCH! THE TASTE! THE CHIP THAT CAN'T BE REPLACED: CHIPPY CHIP!
THE TALENT! THE GRACE! IT'S THE MISS CHIPPY CHIP JR. SHOWCASE!
WELCOME TO THE MISS CHIPPY CHIP JR. PAGEANT!
NOW, THAT'S A COSTUME!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may find happiness due to a good planetary composition. You may feel some kind of energy that may create rivalry with those around you. You can spend some time in intellectual pursuits.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today may be a dull day at the start. After evening, you are able to control the negativity. New people may connect with you for work. With their help, you can try to modify your business plans. It is advisable to read documents carefully before signing on them.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are able to control your self-doubt. Your children's health is good now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will help you get success in a project. Expect to receive some benefits with salary. Those working in sectors related to milk, water, grains, art and culture will get success.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You may indulge in the arts, movies, and fashion that can enhance your creativity. You may spend money to buy some artefacts and household items that will improve your social status. You are polite with others. You may also plan to visit some of the places your family or friends like.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your tendency to spend more today may affect your savings. Be careful when expressing yourself at work and home. You should avoid giving any money on loan today. Postpone important decisions on real estate and other property issues. You should try to avoid the tendency to extricate yourself from your responsibilities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel happier today and your inner vitality will boost self-confidence. You will feel relaxed after sound sleep. Avoid carelessness while making decisions based on finance, industry and research. You may experience some romantic moments with your spouse. Sometimes, you may face problems of self-esteem and you need to be patient to prevent happy moments from turning into bad ones.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. You can use your wisdom to make a profit. You may also experience harmony at your home and a better understanding between you and your spouse develops. Those working in sectors related to metals, booking agency will have a good day.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may be interested in your job today. To avoid a mismatch between your brain and heart while making important decisions, it is advisable that you follow your intuition, especially before making certain decisions related to business, work and investments. There may be workload, but blessings from elders may help you have control over a confusing situation.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Since this morning, you may experience a little peace of mind that you are not in a hurry today, which will reflect in your work pattern. Your destiny may help you complete plans and goals that you had deferred. You may show patience in your domestic life to maintain harmony. You may have skin and stomach-related problems.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may fall victim to negative thoughts. You may feel lethargic. Impatience and arrogance can push you back from making difficult decisions. You may need the blessings of your elders, which will help you get some confidence at work. Avoid investing in dead assets. Love birds should avoid discussing bad experiences from the past.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
It is a good day at work today and you can perform better. Your employer may give you some new responsibilities and you may get a promotion. Disputes with partners can be resolved. You can lend to build your assets. Your children's health may be better now. You may make some investments for the child's future.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love is in the air. Singles can find a suitable match. You may do better in your professional life. Your friends and co-workers may support you. Investing in gems and jewellery may bring positive returns in the future. Care should be taken about elders' health.

KIDZONE

Aditi V Rao, 10 Years, Jnanodaya School

B Pooja, 12 Years, Chowdeshwari Educational Institution

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Let Julie 's age be X years.
X +16 = 3X
16 = 3X - X
16 = 2X
Therefore X=16/2
X = 8.
Julie is 8 years old.

BULL'S EYE
AGROUND, argon, drag, dragon, drug, dung, goad, goned, gourd, grad, grand, groan, ground, guano, guard, organ, rang, rung

QUOTE UNCODE
A little in one's own pocket is better than much in another's purse.

FAST FIVE

B	E	G	I	N
A	N	I	M	A
W	I	R	E	D
A	P	P	L	E
N	O	S	E	S

STRIKE OUT

S	A	G	A	D	O	S	B	A	H	T
E	N	L	R	D	F					
T	R	I	O	D	E	S	C	A	P	E
A	G	E	D	E	R	C	L			
R	A	R	I	T	Y	V	E	N	I	C
E	U	N	A	S	T	I	C	H		
M	A	M	A	S	S	E	D	T		
O	E	R	I	E	M	E	T	O		
L	I	T	A	M	O	L	E	S	T	
G	B	S	I	D	E	D	R	P		
N	U	R	S	E	D	R	O	T	A	T	E
O	A	A	M	E						
C	A	M	S	N	T	H	M	I	L	K

QUICK

T	R	H	O	S	P					E
R	E	M	E	D	Y	D	Y	E		
L	T	G	T	T	R					
A	L	I	A	I	N	E	Q	U	I	T	Y
E	I	E	O	R	A					
D	A	R	L	I	N	G	S	N	U	B	S
I	E	G	L							
B	R	I	G	S	B	U	L	L	I	E	S
L	O	B	E	I						
H	I	F	L	I	E	R	S	V	I	C	E
N	D	R	S	E	O					
M	E	T	E	O	R	E	R	I	N	G
S	N	Y	D	Y	E					

SUDOKU

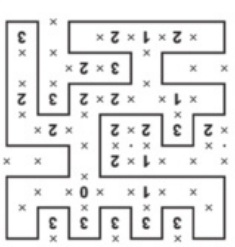
1	4	2	6	9	5	3	7	8
9	3	5	4	8	7	1	6	2
8	7	6	1	3	2	5	4	9
6	8	4	9	5	3	2	1	7
2	5	7	8	1	4	6	9	3
3	1	9	2	7	6	8	5	4
7	2	8	5	6	9	4	3	1
5	9	1	3	4	8	7	2	6
4	6	3	7	2	1	9	8	5

MENSA PUZZLE
140. Starting with 3 in the upper half, the number in the opposite segment multiplies by 2. The next number (7) is multiplied by 3; then by 4, and so on. Therefore 20 is multiplied by 7 to give 140.

RIDDLER
A belt

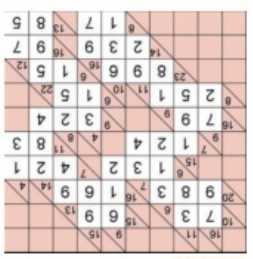
ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Red , Read, Grade, Gander, Grandee.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 2 x 1 - 1 = 3
4 + 7 x 5 + 7 = 62
Medium
3 / 3 x 7 - 1 = 6
Hard

KAKURO



Volume No 15, Issue No 249 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Ad Nauseam

B-Town livid over perfume commercial

Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra took to her social media to slam a perfume commercial for its absurd idea which allegedly promoted rape culture.

Replying to Richa Chadha's tweet who too had called out the same commercial, Priyanka wrote, "Shameful and disgusting. How many levels of clearances did it take for this commercial to be green-lit. How many people thought this was ok? I'm so glad that it was called out and now the ministry has taken it down. Appalling!"

Earlier, the 'Fukrey' actress had penned a strong-worded note which read, "This ad is not an accident. To make an ad, a brand goes through several layers of decision-making. Creatives, script, agency, client, casting... DOES EVERYONE THINK RAPE IS A JOKE? Revelatory! This brand, the agency that made this ad need to be sued for the filth they're serving."

Hrithik also took to his Instagram stories, to call out the ad. "How could the entire team associated with this project think this was OK to make and showcase?" the actor asked. He also added, "Kudos to the viewers for calling it out & the regulatory bodies for taking appropriate action," the actor further said in his post.

Soon the Information and Broadcasting Ministry asked YouTube and Twitter to take down the advertisements from social media platforms. They issued an official note where they mentioned the videos were "detrimental to the portrayal of women in the interest of decency and morality" and in violation of IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code). **–ETimes**

Tiger's lovely birthday wish for mum

On the occasion of his mother Ayesha Shroff's birthday, actor Tiger Shroff penned a heartfelt message for her on social media. Taking to his Instagram story on Sunday, the 'Heropanti 2' actor shared a monochrome picture with his mother where they could be seen posing for the camera with a warm smile.

Calling her 'best mommy", he wrote, "Happy bday to the best mommy in the whole world. love u so much Mamaa @ayeshashroff."

On the other hand, Tiger's rumored girlfriend and actor Disha Patani also sent warm greetings to Ayesha to make her feel special on her special day.

Disha shared happy photos of Ayesha and wrote, "Happiest b'day aunty, you are the most amazing human @ayeshashroff."

She further added, "And the most beautiful inside out @ayeshashroff thank you for all your unconditional love, love you @ayeshashroff."

Tiger and Disha have never confirmed that they are dating, but both shares a strong bond with each other's family.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Tiger has wrapped up the shoot of his new film 'Ganpath'. After an arduous schedule in Ladakh, the actor will now begin preparations for his next film, titled 'Rambo', followed by 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' alongside Akshay Kumar. On the other hand, Disha will join the cast of 'Project K', which is touted as a mega-budget sci-fi thriller, which is being helmed by Nag Ashwin. **–ANI**

SRK, Katrina test positive for covid

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif have tested positive for Covid. However, the actress has completed her quarantine period.

The news about SRK contracting the virus comes right after Hindi film actors such as Kartik Aaryan, Katrina, Aditya Roy Kapur had tested positive. Akshay has recently recovered from the infection.

According to reports, Katrina could not attend the IIFA 2022 event in Abu Dhabi as she was on a road to recovery from Covid.

On the work front, SRK has three films on his platter - 'Pathan', 'Dunki' and 'Jawan', a highly-anticipated film with Atlee.

Taking a pan-India route, 'Jawan' will release in five languages - Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada on June 2, 2023. **–IANS**

Turkish delight

B-Town celebs are back with their exquisite vacation diaries. Photos and videos from their luxurious tourist spots are blessing our feeds almost regularly. And it seems the latest favourite travel destination among celebs is not Maldives, instead, Turkey has now become the hot favourite. For instance, Malaika Arora is treating the Insta universe with beautiful videos and pictures from her Turkish trip.

On Saturday, the diva stunned us in red classy kaftan look and now she has dropped a slew of photos from her relaxing Sunday outing in the exotic destination. Be it soaking in the sun in a breezy blue dress, or her low make-up and bold red lip shade – the model dishes out some major travel fashion inspiration.

Rasika's Fairy Folk at Sydney film fest

Actor Rasika Dugal stars in an improv film 'Fairy Folk', which will be screened at the prestigious Sydney Film Festival.

'Fairy Folk' will premiere at the Sydney Film Festival, which will take place from June 8-19.

Written and directed by Karan Gour, the film follows the story of a squabbling couple, Ritika and Mohit, who have lost their spark and are tired of each other's neuroses and failures. More difficulties arise when they come across a genderless being in the woods and it casually follows them home.

The film will be representing Indian cinema at the annual festival. Rasika says: "It is an actor's delight to be part of an improvised film. The style of shooting gave us the room to explore the many odd things that people do and say when they find themselves in an unprecedented situation... The beautiful oddities that sometimes get lost in the need to write a logical script."

"It was so much fun to play off skilled improvisers. This is the kind of film which is a must have in the life of an actor," she added

Apart from Rasika, Nikhil Desai, Asmit Pathare and Chandrachoor Rai are among its cast members. **–IANS**